

order to pursue the American Dream only to see it destroyed by Federal bureaucrats.

I believe that the small business regulatory bill of rights will help our small businesses thrive once again. This bill requires Federal agencies to develop a no-fault program to assist small businesses with compliance. It also requires agencies to give owners 60 days to correct violations before assessing fines.

Small business men and women will no longer be treated like criminals by Federal regulators. This legislation will make agencies notify owners of their rights during inspections. This bill will also prevent agencies from harassing small business owners by exempting them from inspections for 6 months once they have been found in compliance with regulations.

We all want a safe working environment for Americans. The question is how do we best provide this environment without generating regulations that destroy thousands of jobs and impede the ability of a business to earn even small profits. I think everyone would agree that a safe working environment is of no use if the regulations that establish it are so severe that they prohibit a business from being successful and staying open.

I think this country could boom once again if we could get our Federal Government under control and let the free enterprise system work as it was designed to do.

I look forward to this Congress passing the small business regulatory bill of rights in an effort to help this Nation's small businesses grow.

#### FEDERAL OIL AND GAS ROYALTY SIMPLIFICATION AND FAIRNESS ACT OF 1995

#### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 1995

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Simplification and Fairness Act of 1995. This bill amends the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act with respect to leases of Federal lands and the Outer Continental Shelf [OCS], but does not affect leases on Indian lands. The goal of my legislation is to establish certainty in procedural matters for royalty payors in their dealings with the Department of the Interior, eliminate certain burdensome reporting requirements and simplify others so as to streamline the royalty management program and provide for the equitable collection of royalties.

Approximately 80 percent of the nearly \$1 billion annual Federal onshore mineral revenues are generated from oil and gas royalties, as is nearly all of the \$3 billion collected annually from OCS lessees. Obviously, the Nation benefits from this revenue stream and it's in our best interest to maintain a royalty system that encourages private industry to participate in onshore and offshore oil and gas development, where appropriate.

But, Mr. Speaker, a serious shortcoming for the industry today is that effectively there is no statute of limitations concerning the Federal Government's auditing of royalty payments. This means that an oil and gas producer's books are never closed out and the Depart-

ment of the Interior may inquire into royalties owed on production from many decades ago. While the DOI agency charged with such auditing, the Minerals Management Service [MMS], has worked toward a policy of closing out audits within a 6-year period, the Government is not now statutorily required to meet that goal. The Fairness Act would do so prospectively, that is, for production from the date of enactment forward the Secretary of the Interior would be barred from bringing actions against lessees 6 years after the obligation to pay royalty accrues. Of course, the time limitation does not run where fraud is alleged, nor when tolling agreements are reached by the parties.

Another inequitable provision of current law which the Simplification and Fairness Act addresses is the requirement that interest be paid by lessees who have underpaid their royalties, yet the Government does not pay interest on overpayments. My bill establishes reciprocity with respect to interest payments, but first requires a royalty payor—and the Secretary—to "cross-net" royalty overpayments against underpayments among all one's public domain or acquired lands leases within any State or collectively for OCS leases. This will effectively reduce interest obligations the Federal Government would owe on overpayments and provide the industry with a mechanism to simplify their procedures within each State in which they do business on Federal leases.

Other provisions of the Simplification and Fairness Act grant relief for small producers who pay royalty out-of-pocket, provide enforcement and compliance relief for producers of de minimis amounts of oil and gas, streamline onerous and costly reporting requirements and thereby reduce the Federal Government's cost of royalty accounting without loss of revenue to the U.S. Treasury nor to the States which share in the onshore mineral leasing revenues.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Simplification and Fairness Act of 1995. Let's provide certainty for our domestic industry in its dealing with the Department of the Interior and establish an equitable royalty system for lessor and lessee alike.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 1995

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted in opposition to House Concurrent Resolution 67, the budget resolution for fiscal year 1996, and in opposition to H.R. 1944, rescissions and disaster supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 1995.

#### REMEMBERING REBBE MENACHEM MENDEL SCHNEERSON, ZT"l

#### HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 1995

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, this evening, Shabbos Korach begins, and Jews around the

world will observe the mitzvah of lighting Shabbos candles. But this shabbos also marks the first *yahrzeit* of the Lubavicher Rebbe.

The Rebbe was the spiritual leader of the Lubavicher Chasidim, but he was also revered and respected as a great *tazaddik* by Jews and non-Jews around the world. Indeed, his work still lights the learning and daily mitzvot of Jews everywhere. Through the Chabad movement, schools, high technology communications, Mitzvah Mobiles, publications, lectures, and most of all a profound commitment to the importance of Jewish thought, belief and ethics, the Rebbe made an incalculable contribution to the spiritual lives of all people.

The Rebbe lived through pogroms, two world wars, the rise and fall of communism, the Holocaust and tremendous personal challenges. But his idealism, his learning, and his faith shone through it all and inspired millions.

This week the Rebbe was honored by the presentation of a Congressional Gold Medal, authorized by legislation I was privileged to cosponsor. Members of Congress and religious leaders, including the Chief Rabbi of Israel, Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau, Shlita, paid tribute to the Rebbe.

Mr. Speaker, the Rebbe's *yahrzeit* offers us an opportunity to reflect on and remember the life, work and contributions of the Rebbe. The Rebbe remains a figure of historic importance. I commend the example of his life to all my colleagues.

#### TRIBUTE TO GUY R. DOTSON, SR.

#### HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 30, 1995

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank a devoted resident of my hometown of Murfreesboro and a great friend, Mr. Guy R. Dotson, Sr., for his 26 years of distinguished service as district attorney general for Rutherford and Cannon Counties and to congratulate him on his retirement.

A lifelong middle Tennessean, General Dotson was born in Elora, TN. A graduate of Franklin County High School, he received his B.A. from the University of the South and his law degree from the University of Tennessee. General Dotson was appointed district attorney by Gov. Buford Ellington in 1969. He was elected district attorney general in 1970 and re-elected in 1974, 1982 and 1990.

He will be missed not only by his associates in the district attorney's office, but also by the police departments of Murfreesboro, Smyrna, LaVergne, Eagleville, and Woodbury along with the sheriff's departments in Rutherford and Cannon Counties. He has served with distinction all the citizens of the 16th Judicial District.

Rutherford County is indeed losing a valuable leader who has shown all of us what it means to serve and undoubtedly will continue to do so. Rutherford County's loss, however, is a big gain for General Dotson's five grandchildren, who will be the new beneficiaries of his energy and attention. The golf course beckons him as well.

Please join me and all other middle Tennesseans in wishing him well in his retirement.